

# FACT SHEET



## **McDonnell Park Site St. Louis County, Missouri**

**April 1999**

### **DIOXIN CLEANUP TO BEGIN AT McDONNELL PARK SITE**

#### **Introduction**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is preparing to remove the dioxin-contaminated soils from the McDonnell Park site. The contaminated soils will be placed in covered transport trailers and hauled to the Safety-Kleen facility, in Coffeyville, Kansas, for incineration. Work crews will start mobilizing at the site the week of April 5, 1999. The actual cleanup work is expected to start the following week and should take several months to complete.

The McDonnell Park site is in an unincorporated portion of St. Louis County, near St. Ann, Missouri. The McDonnell Park site is approximately 1.11 acres. The site is in the northwest corner of the James S. McDonnell County Park. This contaminated area was the site of a former horse arena that was sprayed with dioxin-contaminated waste oil for dust control in the early 1970s.

#### **Background**

The McDonnell Park site is one of twenty-nine eastern Missouri dioxin sites. These sites were sprayed with contaminated waste oil in the early 1970s. The contaminated waste oil was generated at a chemical manufacturing facility in southwestern Missouri.

A temporary incinerator was used to destroy dioxin-contaminated soils and materials from twenty-seven eastern Missouri sites. The incinerator operated at Times Beach, Missouri, a dioxin site, from March 17, 1996 to June 16, 1997. Once the contaminated soils and materials were treated, the temporary incinerator was disassembled and removed from Times Beach.

After the Times Beach incinerator was removed, EPA was made aware of a potential, undiscovered dioxin site. EPA sampled, in July 1997, and confirmed dioxin contamination at the LeMar Drive site in Ellisville, Missouri. Due to the LeMar Drive site discovery, EPA actively requested any information that might suggest that additional dioxin sites may exist. Most leads were from the public. One lead suggested that a former horse arena in a part of the James S. McDonnell Park was sprayed with contaminated waste oil.

EPA sampled the former arena in November 1997. Initial sample results showed low levels of contamination in below the surface. EPA conducted follow-up sampling, in January 1998. Dioxin concentrations were detected at less than 10 parts per billion (ppb) in an open, publicly used, area of the park. Sample results in a remote, inaccessible area of the park, detected dioxin concentrations up to 169 ppb, at the surface. Dioxin concentrations over 1 ppb are of concern to EPA and warranted further evaluation. The state and federal agencies determined that the site was not an imminent health threat; however, EPA moved forward and quickly secured the site to prevent the public from possibly being exposed to dioxin contaminated soil. EPA secured the site by installing a vegetated soil cover and fencing.

In July 1998, EPA released a *Preferred Alternative* for the site. This document identified EPA's proposed action for the site. Following a public review and comment period, EPA selected and announced its final site remedy. EPA issued a decision document in October 1998 selecting excavation and off-site incineration for the dioxin-contaminated soils.

### **Cleanup Activities**

The cleanup activities will consist of the following:

- Dioxin-contaminated materials will be excavated. Conventional earth working equipment will be used to remove successive layers of soil in designated areas. Soil layers will be removed until soil testing verifies that the area is clean.
- Dust suppression will be performed, as necessary, during the cleanup. This will prevent airborne contaminated materials from migrating from the site.
- Continuous air monitoring will be conducted. This will verify that airborne contamination is not migrating from the site.
- The contaminated materials will be transported to the Safety-Kleen facility in Coffeyville, Kansas. Forty-foot box trailers and covered end-dumping trailers, certified for hazardous material transportation, will be used.
- The dioxin-contaminated materials will be incinerated at the Coffeyville, Kansas facility.
- The affected areas in the park will be restored. The restoration will be completed by late spring or early summer, 1999, after excavation activities are complete.

### **Next Steps**

Weather permitting, EPA plans to mobilize at the McDonnell Park site on April 5, 1999. Construction trailers, portable truck scales, and utility connections will be brought to the site. A temporary gravel road will be constructed. The gravel road will allow the trucks to go directly to the site without using the park's main entrance. The park will remain open during the site cleanup; however, access will be restricted in certain areas. Restricted areas will include the amphitheater and the northern portion of the walking trail.

The soil excavation is scheduled to start the week of April 12, 1999. The site cleanup will involve removing the contaminated soil using conventional earth working equipment. Soil testing will be done until testing shows that the remaining soils meet health-based standards for residential use. In some cases, where clean soil is on top of a contaminated layer, the clean soil will be removed first. It will be stockpiled at the site while the underlying contaminated soil is excavated and removed. After the dioxin-contaminated soils are removed, the excavated areas will be backfilled to the original grade and revegetated.

About one to two weeks after excavation has started, the contaminated materials will be transported to the Coffeyville, Kansas facility. EPA estimates that approximately 3,500 tons, or about 160 truck loads, will be removed from the site during the cleanup. The contaminated materials will be contained in lined, bulk-solids, handling sacks, each weighing approximately two tons, and transported in box trailers. It is anticipated that the trucks, leaving the site, will arrive at the facility the following morning. Response crews will be available to respond to any spills along the transportation routes.

All trucks carrying dioxin-contaminated materials from the McDonnell Park site will be properly labeled, licensed, and certified for hazardous waste shipments. The truck drivers will also be properly licensed and certified for hazardous waste transportation. The drivers will be assisted at critical points along the route, as necessary, by escort vehicles and/or local authorities to assure the contaminated materials are safely transported. The truck drivers will observe all posted speed limits. The transport route may vary, but is planned to follow Adie Road south, to Link Avenue south, to Midland Boulevard west, to Lindbergh Boulevard south, to Page Avenue west, to I-270 south. The trucks will then access I-44 east from I-270 for continued transport to the Coffeyville, Kansas facility.

Site workers handling contaminated materials, or working close to the excavation activities, may be required to wear protective equipment during the cleanup. This is required by the site's health and safety plan. Continuous air monitoring will be performed to assure that public health is protected during the removal activities. The cleanup should be completed by mid-June. Once the cleanup is completed the entire park will be available for public use.

### **Additional Information**

If you have questions about this site, please contact:

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